

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reconsidering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to correct informalities and clarify that the arrangement is provided with an entry opening. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in Figure 2 and paragraph [0021] of the publication of the present application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Objection(s) to the Claims

Claim 1 has been objected to for informalities. By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully required.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102*Claims 1, 10, and 11*

Claims 1, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,611,103 (“Lee”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Embodiments disclosed in the application relate to an arrangement for fixing a windscreen wiper blade on an arm. In accordance with embodiments shown in Figures 3-6, the web **6D** of the adapter **6** is provided with a longitudinal opening **15** for allowing the passage and fitting of the rod **2** when it is slidingly fitted into the adapter **6**. With the one end inclined upwards (*see* Figure 5), the end of the rod **2** is introduced through the entry opening **6C** and, subsequently, the longitudinal opening **15**. When the end of the rod approaches the one end of the longitudinal opening **15** opposite to the entry opening **6C**, the end of the rod **2** is pushed down toward the inside of the adapter **6**. When assembly is finished, it is noted that the end of the rod **2** is fitted in the adapter **6**, and does not pass through the longitudinal opening **15**.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 requires, in part, an entry opening provided on an end portion of the adapter to accept the rod, wherein the entry opening is formed separately from the longitudinal opening and, when the rod has been locked in the adapter, *the rod is disposed through the entry opening without being disposed through the longitudinal opening.*

Lee is directed to a windshield wiper frame connector for use in a windshield wiper assembly. With respect to Lee, the Examiner has asserted at page 3 of the Office Action dated February 20, 2007 that Figure 6c shows the rod passing through the upper opening. However, as Figure 6c shows, the rod stays through the upper opening even when it is locked in

the connector. That is, Lee does not disclose at least *the rod disposed through the entry opening without being disposed through the longitudinal opening*, as required by amended claim 1.

Rather, the connector of Lee has configurations contrary to that of claim 1.

In view of the above, Lee fails to show or suggest all limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Lee. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-8

Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. 1108580 ("Bacher"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, amended claim 1 requires, in part, *an entry opening provided on an end portion of the adapter to accept the rod*, wherein the entry opening is formed separately from the longitudinal opening and, when the rod has been locked in the adapter, the rod is disposed through the entry opening without being disposed through the longitudinal opening.

Bacher shows in Figures 1-4 an arm 1 pivotally coupled to a wiper blade 3-7 using a pivot spindle. With respect to Bacher, the Examiner has equated the opening on one end to the longitudinal opening on the top portion of the adapter of claim 1. Even if this is correct, Bacher would still lack at least *an entry opening provided on an end portion of the adapter to accept the rod*, as required by amended claim 1. Otherwise, Bacher will lack the longitudinal opening on the top portion of the adapter, as required by amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Bacher fails to show or suggest all limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Bacher. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8, and 10-11

Claims 1-5, 8, and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,831,222 ("Kushida"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, amended claim 1 requires, in part, an entry opening provided on an end portion of the adapter to accept the rod, wherein *the entry opening is formed separately from the longitudinal opening* and, when the rod has been locked in the adapter, the rod is disposed through the entry opening without being disposed through the longitudinal opening.

Kushida shows in Figures 2, 3, and 8 a coupling means 4 to rotationally connect an arm 1 to a pressure unit 3 and a blade unit 2. With respect to Kushida, the Examiner has equated at page 6 of the Office Action dated February 20, 2007 the opening defined between the portions 11, 15 of Kushida to the longitudinal opening of claim 1. However, Figure 3 of Kushida shows that the opening defined between the portions 11, 15 forms only one opening together with the opening 12 at the end. That is, the disclosure of Kushida is contrary to *the entry opening formed separately from the longitudinal opening*, as required by amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Kushida fails to show or suggest all limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Kushida. Dependent claims

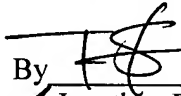
are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17102/015001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments